

Message Text

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51

ACTION AF-18

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3505

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 1940

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, XA

SUBJECT: BIO INFO ON NEW OAU SEC GEN ETEKI

1. EMBASSY RECORDS INDICATE CONSIDERABLE BIO INFO ON NEW OAU SEC GEN WILLIAM ETEKI MBOUMOUA PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED IN YAOUNDE'S A-124, MARCH 9, 1964; YAOUNDE'S A-10, JULY 24, 1964; BIOGRAPHIC DATA FORM DATED MARCH 5, 1970; YAOUNDE 800 (APRIL 6, 1970); AND YAOUNDE'S A-29, MARCH 7, 1972. THIS TELEGRAM DESIGNED TO UPDATE AND SUPPLY MORE CURRENT AND EVALUATIVE MATERIAL, NOT SUMMARIZE OR REPEAT BASIC INFO ALREADY AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT.

2. HAVING SERVED SINCE 1971 AS TECHNICAL ADVISER (CONSEILLER TECHNIQUEL AT CAMEROON PRESIDENCY, ETEKI WAS ELEVATED IN SEPTEMBER 1972 TO MORE PRESTIGIOUS POST OF SPECIAL ADVISER (CONSEILLER SPECIAL) AT PRESIDENCY. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES WERE TO CARRY OUT WHATEVER TASKS WERE ENTRUSTED HIM BY PRESIDENT, AND HE WAS HIERARCHICALLY INDEPENDENT OF PRESIDENCY'S POWERFUL SECRETARIAT GENERAL. PRESIDENCY HABITUALLY OPERATES AMIDST AURA OF SECRECY AND DISCRETION, AND IT NEVER CLEAR TO OUTSIDERS EXACTLY WHAT MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES HANDLED BY ETEKI OR OTHERS. SOURCES AT PRESIDENCY HAVE OCCASIONALLY TOLD EMBOFFS THAT ETEKI PRIMARILY OVERSEES EDUCATION MATTERS (HIS FORMER MINISTERIAL PORTFOLIO). ETEKI CLEARLY HAS WORKED ON FOREIGN POLICY AND DIPLOMATIC MATTERS. HE WAS AHIDJO'S PRINCIPAL SUPPORT DURING 1971 OAU WISEMEN VISITS, ACCOMPANIED HIM TO CAIRO AND TEL AVIV, AND LATER, AS AHIDJO'S

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REPRESENTATIVE MADE THE FOLLOW-UP TRIP WITH SENGHOR. AHIDJO HAS

OCCASIONALLY, IN INTRODUCING HIM TO AMERICANS, LAUGHINGLY REFERRED TO HIM AS "MY KISSINGER" (PRIOR TO LATTER'S NOMINATION TO STATE). HE IS GENERALLY WELL INFORMED AND INTERESTED IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BY ARRANGEMENT INAUGURATED WITH PREVIOUS PAO, ETEKI REGULARLY RECEIVED SELECTED STORIES FROM USIS WIRELESS FILE ON MAJOR FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES. (HE IS ONLY REGULAR SUCH RECIPIENT IN GURC). HIS ACTIVE INTEREST IN RECEIVING SUCH MATERIAL INDICATED BY INITIATIVE HE TOOK IN CONTACTING PRESENT PAO SHORTLY AFTER LATTER'S ARRIVAL TO ASSURE CONTINUED FLOW OF WIRELESS FILE AND OTHER USIS MATERIAL.

3. ETEKI VISITED U. S. AS LEADER GRANTEE IN 1968 AND WAS FASCINATED BY PARTY CONVENTION THAT HE ATTENDED. NO INDICATION OF ANTI-AMERICANISM. IS ONE OF MORE FAITHFUL AMONG GURC OFFICIALS IN ATTENDING DINNERS AND RECEPTIONS AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE. FOR WHATEVER REASON, HE IS VERY FRIENDLY WITH DEPARTING SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR AND IS REGARDED BY SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY AS STRONGLY PRO-SOUTH IN KOREAN MATTERS. NO EVIDENCE IN RECENT YEARS THAT REFLECTS HIS PAST DABBLING IN LEFTISM DURING STUDENT DAYS. HE IS INTELLECTUAL WITH BROAD INTERESTS IN MANY FIELDS. ALSO A JAZZ BUFF. HIS CURRENT WIFE, THE EX-YVETTE MOUKOURY, IS A PROMINENT (AND PROSPEROUS) PHARMACIST WHOSE RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE YAOUNDE MAY EXPLAIN WHY HE HASN'T HAD OTHER FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS.

4. ETEKI IS QUIET AND REMOTE IN DEMEANOR, NOT GIVEN TO SMALL TALK, DOES NOT SEEM ESPECIALLY AT EASE AT RECEPTIONS. HE IS UNCHARISMATIC. NOTHING IN HIS BEHAVIOR OR TALK THAT PRESENT EMBASSY STAFF HAS SEEN OR HEARD INDICATES DOCTRINAIRE VIEWS OR EVEN OVERRIDING INTEREST IN GREAT AFRICAN ISSUES SUCH AS LIBERATION CAUSE. RATHER, HE IS SERIOUS, APPARENTLY COMPETENT HARD WORKER WHO HAS KNOWN HOW TO BE PROPERLY FACELESS TO OUTSIDERS AS HE PERFORMED KEY FUNCTIONS WITHIN INNER SANCTUM AT GURC PRESIDENCY. HE WILL NO DOUBT FAITHFULLY REPRESENT OAU IN HIS NEW JOB, BUT IS UNLIKELY THRUST SELF TOO FAR FORWARD OR SEEK PERSONALIZED STARDOM. THIS MAY BE JUST WHAT OAU IS READY FOR AFTER DIALLO TELLI AND NZO EKANGAKY.

MOORE

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